

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 566 without my signature.

This bill is substantially similar to a bill I vetoed last year, AB 2406.

This bill imposes Sacramento judgments regarding local fire fighting needs on local governments. Fire protection service standards are directly dependent on the local decision-making process. Local agencies are in the best position to evaluate their conditions to match community needs with available resources.

Legislators should concentrate on ways to extinguish the policy fires in Sacramento and leave the real firefighting to the brave men and women who protect our local communities every day.

For these reasons I cannot support this measure. I urge the Legislature to instead focus more on constructive ways to help firefighting agencies improve the ability to respond quickly to fire incidents.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger